district and Uttara Kannada district. One of the arrested persons, Nasir is reported to have been trained in Pakistan and had connections with Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT). Some of the others, who had attended the meetings, are reported to be members of the banned organisation SIMI. Further investigations are continuing.

Molestation by IAF Officers

*188. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three Indian Air force officers were charged with molesting a girl aboard the New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express in December, 2007; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken by the Air Force against such officers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Three airmen of the Indian Air Force (IAF), were arrested by the Government Railway Police (GRP) Gomoh on the written complaint made by a lady co-passenger on 27.12.2007, for misbehaviour while they were travelling by Delhi-Bhubaneswer Rajdhani train. A case againt all the three was registered u/s 354/34 IPC and is being investigated by GRP Gomoh. The next hearing by Judicial Magistrate (Railway) Dhanbad is on 3rd April, 2008. The airmen have been released on bail on 28.12.2007.

In a formal investigation, conducted by Air Force Station Kalaikunda in January 2008, one airman has been blamed for improper behaviour with the lady co-passenger. All three have been blamed for not reporting the matter to Air Force authorities in time about the said incident. After approval by competent authority, it is proposed to take action against the balmed airmen, for the lapses established. If the airmen are subsequently convicted by the Criminal Court further appropriate action will also be taken accordignly under the Air Force Laws.

Employment under NREGP

*189. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) happens to be world's biggest and ambitious social security scheme;

(b) if so, the number of unemployed got employment since its enactment in September, 2005;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Act is meant for improving working conditions and bringing about investments in productive assets; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken on the above?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. NREGA happens to be the world's biggest and ambitious Act that provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of wage employment in a year to every rural household on demand. It is aimed at enhancement of the livelihood security of the rural people.